

#26
MOONSTONE
\$3.99

cover A

THE PHANTOM™



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Zeu

THE PHANTOM

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT
ED RHOADES

AND TO **KAREN MOY** AT KING FEATURES

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ANGELA AND CHRISTIAN WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET ME IN NAIROBI, BUT THEY WEREN'T ON THE PLANE.

AND YOU'RE SURE THEY DIDN'T JUST MISS THE FLIGHT?



THEY CHECKED IN AT MARRAKECH-MENARA AIRPORT, BUT THAT'S THE LAST ANYONE SAW OF THEM.



SO, THEY EITHER MADE A CHANGE OF PLANS IN MOROCCO, OR SOMEONE CHANGED THEIR PLANS FOR THEM...



I SPOKE WITH LUAGA, WHO HAD SOME TROUBLING THOUGHTS. APPARENTLY, THERE'S BEEN A RASH OF PEOPLE DISAPPEARING FROM FLIGHTS ALL ACROSS NORTHERN AFRICA OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

AT FIRST, IT JUST SEEMED LIKE A SERIES OF COINCIDENCES, BUT THE FREQUENCY HAS REALLY STEPPED UP OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

AND WHAT CONCLUSION HAVE HIS INVESTIGATORS DRAWN SO FAR?



EACH PERSON WHO'S DISAPPEARED HAS HAD A JOB IN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD.

ANGELA IS A DIG SPECIALIST FOR THE SMITHSONIAN.

AND CHRISTIAN RUNS THE PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE LONDON NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

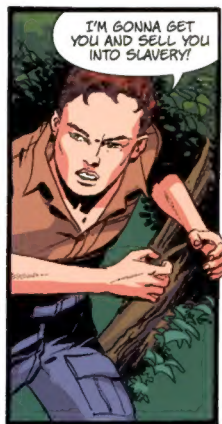
I'VE HEARD GRUMBLINGS ABOUT A SWEATSHOP RING...

WHY WOULD SOMEONE CAPTURE ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOR SLAVE LABOR?



WHAT'S A "SWEATSHOP"?

KIT, SHHH!





WHOA!



MOZZ!
WE HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU IN
FOREVER!

I'M ALWAYS HERE WHEN
THE TIME IS RIGHT, YOUNG
KIT. NOW WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT MAKING YOUR
SISTER A SLAVE?



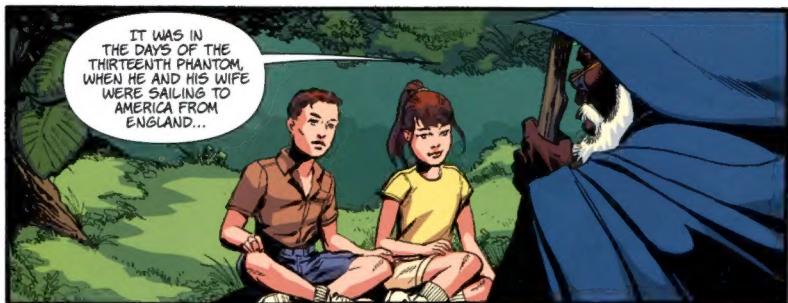
OH, WE WERE
JUST GOOFING
OFF— I WASN'T
SERIOUS.



SLAVERY IS NOTHING TO
"GOOF" ABOUT, YOUNG
ONES. SLAVERY IS ONE OF
THE MOST TERRIBLE CRIMES
THIS JUNGLE HAS EVER
SEEN.



NOW, SIT AND
LET ME TELL YOU
OF HOW SLAVERY
NEARLY RUINED THE
LLONGO TRIBE
CENTURIES AGO.



IT WAS IN
THE DAYS OF THE
THIRTEENTH PHANTOM,
WHEN HE AND HIS WIFE
WERE SAILING TO
AMERICA FROM
ENGLAND...

THE
EASTERN
COAST OF
FLORIDA

I WISH OUR
JOURNEY WASN'T SO
NEAR ITS END. I'VE
ENJOYED THESE
LAST FEW WEEKS AT
SEA, MY LOVE.

THERE'S A
STORM COMIN',
CAPTAIN!





AND HOW LONG DO YOU FORESEE US STAYING IN NEW ORLEANS?



JUST LONG ENOUGH TO GATHER MY BELONGINGS. I DO SO LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING YOUR HOME IN BANGALLA OUR HOME.



AND JUST WHAT, PRAY TELL, DO YOU PLAN TO DO WHEN WE ARRIVE IN BANGALLA?

WELL, I STILL CANNOT BELIEVE I LIVE IN A CAVE--



SHIP AHOY!

SHE'S LISTING, CAPTAIN, SHOULD WE PREPARE TO RENDER ASSISTANCE?

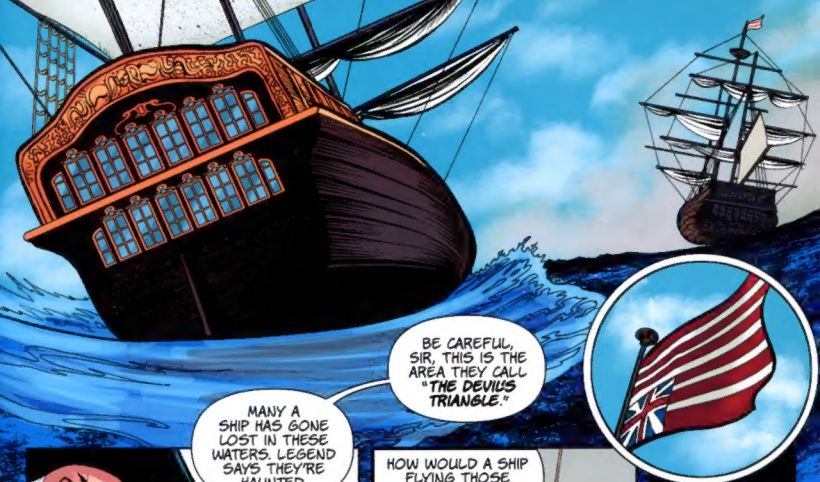


ALL PASSENGERS BELOW DECKS-- NOW!

LIEUTENANT! PREPARE TO COME ALONGSIDE!



WELL, THIS WILL CERTAINLY DELAY OUR ARRIVAL...



BE CAREFUL,
SIR, THIS IS THE
AREA THEY CALL
"THE DEVIL'S
TRIANGLE."

MANY A
SHIP HAS GONE
LOST IN THESE
WATERS. LEGEND
SAYS THEY'RE
HAUNTED.

HOW WOULD A SHIP
FLYING THOSE
COLORS COME TO
BE HERE IN THE
CARIBBEAN?

MAYHAPS,
SHE'S A
GHOST SHIP,
CAP'N.

I DON'T BELIEVE
IN GHOSTS, LIEUTENANT.
HOWEVER, THIS IS VERY ODD. THAT
FLAG IS FROM THE BRITISH EAST INDIA
COMPANY AND NOT SUPPOSED TO BE
FLOWN OUTSIDE THE INDIAN OCEAN.

IT'S A
TRAP---



JEANETTE!
GET IN HERE AND
WAIT FOR ME.
HIDE BEHIND
THE SAILS.

LOOKS
LIKE YOU'RE
GETTING THAT
ADVENTURE
ANYWAY.

NOW, STAY
HERE UNTIL
I RETURN.

GOOD
SHOOTING,
BOYS!

POOR SWABS
NEVER STOOD
A CHANCE.

MAKE SURE
THEY'RE ALL
GONNERS, THEN
PICK 'EM CLEAN
AND FEED 'EM
TO THE FISHES,
BOYS!

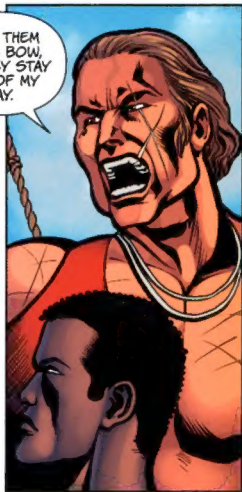
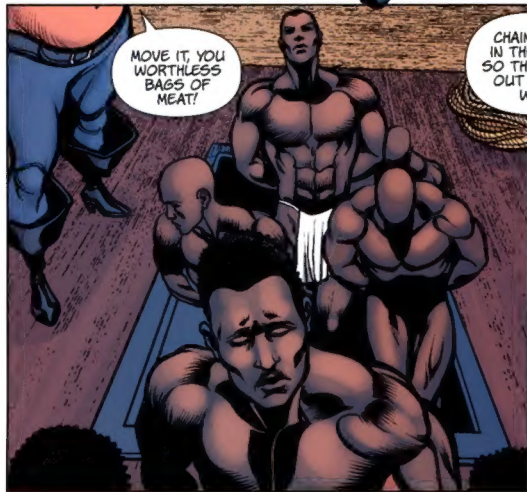
LET'S SEE
WHAT TREASURES
HER MAJESTY HAS
ME HEARTIES!



I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED ME
ONE OF THOSE
SILLY ENGLISH
HATS!

AND YOU
BOYS DOUBTED
MY GREAT
GRANDFATHER'S
INVENTION.



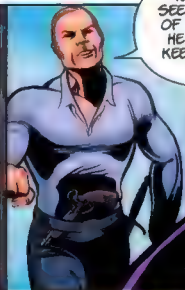




THAT'S
KALIMBA,
HER TO THE
LLONGO
THRONE



NOW, LET'S
SEE WHAT SORT
OF TREASURES
HER MAJESTY
KEEPS ON THIS
TUB.



IT'S BLACK
AS NIGHT
DOWN HERE!



MRRRRPH--



WELL, WE CAN'T
HAVE YOU TAKING
ALL THE TREASURE
FOR YE'SELF,
NOW CAN WE?



WHAT'RE YE--
THE DEATH'S
HEAD!



CAP'N!
WE'VE GOT
COMPANY!







SHE'S HAUNTED, CAP'N!
CAST OFF NOW BEFORE
THE EVIL TAINTS THE
CAMARILLA AS WELL.



"HAUNTED",
YE SAY?



THEY MARKED
REESE WITH
THE SIGN OF
THE DEVIL!



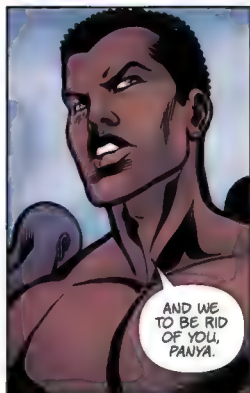
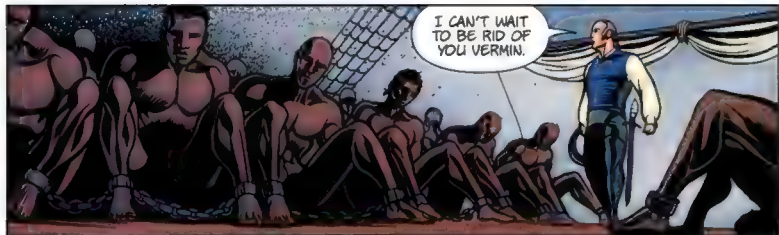
YOU'RE RIGHT—
WE'VE COME TOO
FAR WITH THIS
CARGO TO RISK IT
OVER ENGLISH
WARES.



BOSUN! TIME
TO CAST OFF—
WE STILL HAVE A
GOOD TWO DAYS
SAIL AHEAD OF
US!

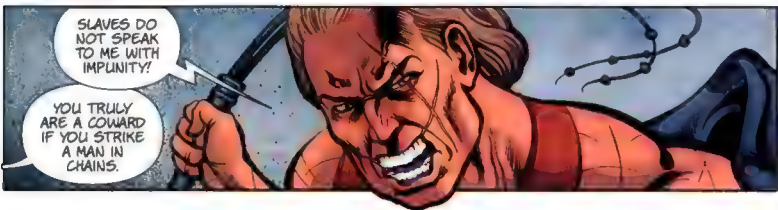


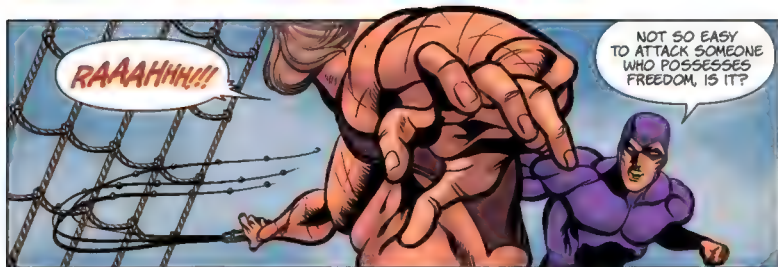
HELMSMAN,
MAKE A
COURSE FOR
NEW ORLEANS!
OUR BOUNTY
AWAITS!

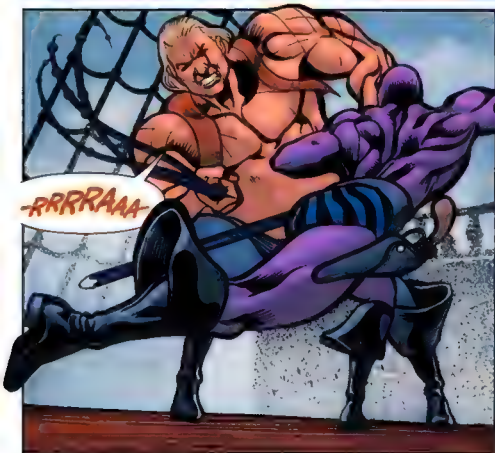
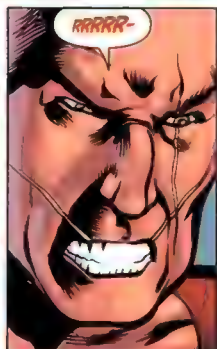




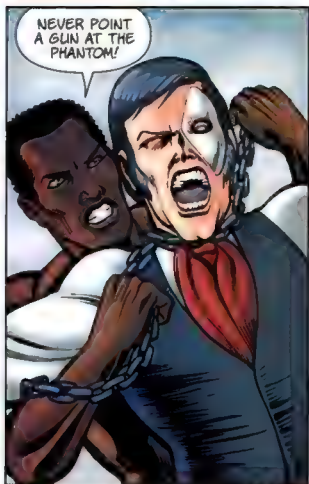
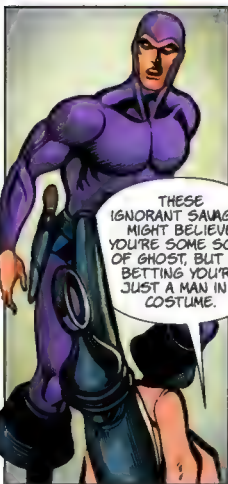
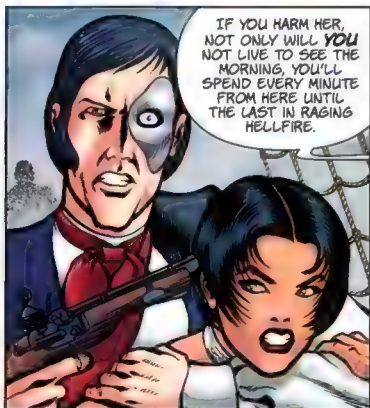




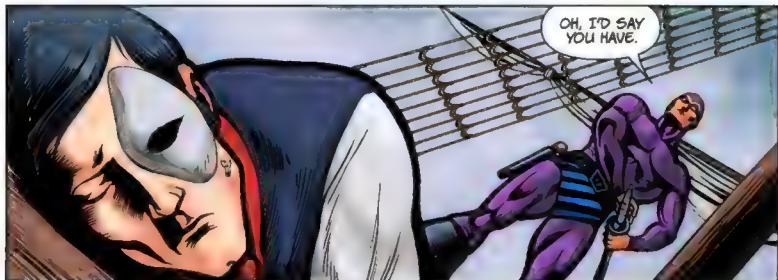


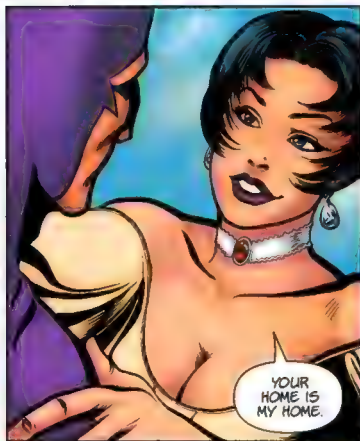












Dave Fleera Presents:

GHOST ZERO

in

The CAST-IRON COFFIN!

1948—THE WAR IS OVER FOR MOST. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GHOSTLY JAPANESE SUB AND ITS SPECTRAL CREW TRY TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR MISSION OF MURDEROUS SABOTAGE FROM *BEYOND THE GRAVE*? CAN YOUNG EDDIE QUICK AND HIS GHOSTLY MENTOR USE THEIR SUPERNATURAL POWER TO STOP THE SUBMARINE BEFORE IT COMPLETES ITS GRUESOME TASK?



EDDIE QUICK AND HIS GHOSTLY GUARDIAN, CHARLES PALLENTINE FOUND A MYSTERIOUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE EARLIER THAT DAY...

...AND IT SAYS THAT THE FERRY BOAT OPERATOR THAT CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE JAPANESE SUB EARLIER THAT WEEK WAS FOUND MURDERED IN HIS BOAT!

MR. PALLENTINE, DO YOU THINK...?

THERE WAS A JAPANESE SUB IN THAT RIVER BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR... ITS TARGET WAS THE MUNITIONS DEPOT AT THE CITY OF LIMESTONE! BUT IT WAS SUNK BY A COAST GUARD PATROL BEFORE IT GOT CLOSE.

DO YOU THINK THAT THE JAPS WOULD SEND ANOTHER SUB?

PERHAPS, OR PERHAPS THERE IS MORE TO THIS STORY THAN THERE SEEMS. EITHER WAY, WE WON'T FIND ANSWERS HERE....

SO LATER, AT THE BOAT OF THE MURDERED FERRYMAN...

W-WHO IS THERE?

EASY, LADY! WE'RE JUST HERE TO FIND THAT JAP SUB!

...WE?

SIGH... NEVERMIND. JUST BACK AWAY FROM THAT BOAT!

MY HUSBAND OWNS THAT PLANT DOWN RIVER, AND IF IT'S IN DANGER THEN I'M COMING TOO!

AFTER MINUTES OF SEARCHING, EDDIE AND IRENE MILLARD ARE SURPRISED BY THE GHOST SUB AS IT OVERTURNS THEIR SMALL BOAT AND PLUNGES THEM INTO THE ICY RIVER!

AH!

AIR!
DIDN'T GET A FULL
BREATH ...

WHAT
THE?!

MORE GHOSTS?
THEY MUST BE FROM
THE SUB!

EDMUND!
LISTEN TO ME!
LEND ME YOUR
FORM...USE
THE SPIRIT
RING!

EDDIE CONCENTRATES ON
THE MAGICAL SPIRIT RING,
HIS WILL FADING AWAY AS
THE GHOST OF
CHARLES PALLENTINE
POSSESSES HIM!

MEANWHILE....

K-KOFF!

(BROTHER/
SINICHI-SAN!!?)

(IT IS YOU/
WHEN I READ THE
ARTICLE IN THE
PAPER, I HAD
HOPED-)

*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.



(BROTHER!
HEAR YOUR SISTER/
I **FAILED** YOU ONCE BY NOT
FOLLOWING YOU TO JAPAN...
LET ME MEND OUR FAMILY'S HONOR
BY HELPING YOU COMPLETE
YOUR **FINAL**
MISSION!)



THE **POSSESSION** COMPLETE,
GHOST ZERO COMES FORTH...
A **SPECTRE** WEARING
BORROWED FLESH!



IRENE
MILLARD!
GET AWAY WHILE
YOU **STILL**
CAN!

NO!



I WILL
NO LONGER BE
A DISGRACE TO
MY FAMILY!

MY
BROTHER
DIED MEETING
HIS DESTINY..

I WILL
NOT RUN FROM
MINE!

